

MINUTES
SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK
Thursday, April 18, 2019 – 10:00 am
SCDNR Styx Classroom
2762 Wildlife Lane
West Columbia, SC 29172

The South Carolina Conservation Bank Board (SCCB) held its regular meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 10:00 am at 2762 Wildlife Lane, West Columbia, SC in the Styx Classroom. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was posted and mailed to the news media in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Chairman C. Douglass Harper presided at the meeting and members present included Michael G. McShane, Vice Chairman; Andrea Clark; Charles Lane (via phone); W. Thomas Lavender, Jr.; Curtis M. Spencer; C. Richmond Wilhoit; Keith Williamson; and Ex-Officio members Russell Hubright for Dr. Walt McPhail, SC Forestry Commission Chairman; Phil Gaines for Duane Parrish, Director for SCPRT. Members absent were Elliott Close; Larry L. Yonce; and Ex-officio member Norman F. Pulliam, Chairman SCDNR Board.

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their attendance. The Chairman asked Ms. Larck, SCCB Business Manager, to confirm that a public notice has been given for this meeting. Ms. Larck stated that this was correct.

II. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Chairman welcomed the newest Bank Board member, Keith Williamson, and asked him to make a short introduction. Mr. Wilhoit thanked the Chairman and stated that it was an honor to be appointed to serve on this Board.

III. ROLL CALL

The Chairman asked Ms. Larck to call role of the Board Members. Ms. Larck called role and a quorum was established with eight Board Members and two Ex-Officio in attendance. The Chairman recognized and thanked Mr. Parkin Hunter, Ms. Harley Kirkland, and Mr. Wesley Vorberger' from the SC Attorney General's office for serving as counsel for this meeting.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Chairman opened the floor to anyone that would like to address to the Board. There being none, the Chairman called for the next agenda item.

V. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Chairman stated the Board was sent a draft copy of the February 26, 2019 minutes prior to the meeting for their review and that a copy was within the Board Member handouts. The Chairman asked for any additions, deletions, or corrections. There being none, the Chairman called for a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 26, 2019 meeting. Mr. McShane made the motion to approve the February 2019 minutes. Ms. Clark seconded and the motion unanimously passed.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman stated that the Bank continues to make process during this period of transition and thanked the Board's committees' Chairs and members.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Chairman summarized the remaining budget for fiscal year 2019 and the status of the budget requested for fiscal year 2020.

The Chairman asked that the minutes reflect that Mr. Lavender joined the meeting at this time.

B. REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING GRANTS

The Chairman asked that Mr. McShane give a report on the outstanding grants. Mr. McShane stated that these grants were approved based on a finalization deadline on June 30, 2019 and that we have kept constant communication with applicants; some of which have notified us that they will be unable to make the deadline. Mr. McShane stated that the following grants requested adjustments and would increase the amount available to spend on grants from \$865,264 to \$900,264.

1. GRANT MEADOW ADDITION

Mr. McShane stated that Upstate Forever is unable to make the deadline for this property and has therefore requested the withdrawal of this grant from the outstanding grants list and work with the applicant to review the application again in fiscal year 2020. Mr. McShane stated the recommendation from the Grants Review Committee was to withdraw Grant Meadow Addition from the outstanding list. The Chairman called for a vote to accept the recommendation made by the Grants Review Committee and the recommendation unanimously passed.

2. ANDERSON PROPERTY

Mr. McShane stated that Nation Ford Land Trust has requested an increase of \$50,000 to the original grant of \$300,000. Mr. McShane stated that the original grant was made at a lower value than the original request and Nation Ford Land Trust was unable to make this project work at the original grant amount. Mr. McShane stated the recommendation from the Grants Review Committee was to fund this project at a total of \$350,000. The Chairman called for a vote to accept the recommendation made by the Grants Review Committee and the recommendation unanimously passed.

3. INGRAM DUNES

Mr. McShane stated that the City of North Myrtle Beach has informed us that they have negotiated a reduction in acreage from 9.35 acres to 7.24 acres. Mr. McShane stated the recommendation from the Grants Review Committee was to reduce the grant by \$10,000 and fund this project at a total of \$500,000. Mr. Wilhoit recused himself from any discussion on Ingram Dunes. The Chairman called for a vote to accept the recommendation made by the Grants Review Committee and the recommendation unanimously passed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. REVIEW OF PENDING APPLICATIONS (RECEIVED BUT NOT APPROVED GRANTS)

Mr. McShane stated the following grants previously identified that they could not close in the necessary timeline: Whetstone Creek Preserve, Robert Bruce (Pickens Preserve Forest) Tract, S. Tyger River Blueways Tract, Wild Turkey Creek LLC Tract, Mariwill Timber Plantation LLC, Sanctuary Timberlands LLC Tracts, Cold Hill Investments LLC, Lugoff Farms LLC, Guinyard Landing Property, Blackwell Farm, Lowie Property and Moore Property. Mr. McShane stated that the recommendation from the Grants Review Committee was to carry these projects forward due to the inability to close by

June 30, 2019. The Chairman called for a vote to accept the recommendation made by the Grants Review Committee and the recommendation unanimously passed.

1. PARIS MOUNTAIN GOSPEL TRACT

Mr. McShane stated the next application was for 23 acres in Greenville County submitted by Naturaland Trust requesting \$20,000. Mr. McShane stated the recommendation from the Grants Review Committee was to fund this project at \$20,000. The Chairman called for a vote to accept the recommendation made by the Grants Review Committee and the recommendation unanimously passed.

2. BURGESS FARMS TRACT

Mr. McShane stated the next application was for 1,013 acres in Williamsburg County submitted by Pee Dee Land Trust requesting \$275,000. Mr. Williamson recused himself from voting. Mr. McShane stated the recommendation from the Grants Review Committee was to fund this project at \$275,000. The Chairman called for a vote to accept the recommendation made by the Grants Review Committee and the recommendation unanimously passed.

3. LEGACY FARMS

Mr. McShane stated the next application was for 367.37 acres in Hampton County submitted by Lowcountry Land Trust requesting \$165,316.50. Mr. McShane stated the recommendation from the Grants Review Committee was to fund this project at \$165,316.50. The Chairman called for a vote to accept the recommendation made by the Grants Review Committee and the recommendation unanimously passed.

4. BRAMBLEWOOD LLC TRACT

Mr. McShane stated the next application was for 680 acres in Kershaw County submitted by Congaree Land Trust requesting \$408,000. Mr. McShane stated the recommendation from the Grants Review Committee was to fund this project at \$340,000. The Chairman called for a vote to accept the recommendation made by the Grants Review Committee and the recommendation unanimously passed.

5. BIG SNOOKS TRACT

Mr. McShane stated the next application was for 297 acres in Jasper County submitted by Lowcountry Land Trust requesting \$50,000. Mr. McShane stated the recommendation from the Grants Review Committee was to fund this project at \$50,000. The Chairman called for a vote to accept the recommendation made by the Grants Review Committee and the recommendation unanimously passed.

Mr. McShane stated that the Bank had roughly \$900,000 to spend after outstanding grant adjustments and the grants just approved amount to roughly \$850,000. Mr. McShane stated the Grants Review Committee recommended the rest of the pending applications be carried over to the next Board meeting including: Carter Family Tract, Samworth Farms – McTeer Tract, Wando Dock – Shem Creek, Holly Bluff II, Lyle Property, Millgrove Plantation, and Joe Floyd Tract. The Chairman called for a vote to accept the recommendation made by the Grants Review Committee and the recommendation unanimously passed.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman stated that according to Section 30-4-70 of the SC Code of Laws the Board can go into executive session for several reasons including the “discussion of employment”. Mr. Lavender made a motion to go into executive session for discussion of a personnel matter. Ms. Clark seconded and the

motion unanimously passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

The Chairman called for a motion to go back into regular session. Ms. Clark made a motion to go back into regular session. The Chairman noted that no actions had been taken during executive session. Mr. Lavender seconded and the motion unanimously passed. The Chairman asked Mr. Lavender to give a report from the Executive Director Search Committee.

A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Lavender stated that the Search Committee evaluated 38 applications, interviewed the top candidates and recommended a final candidate in executive session. Mr. Lavender requested the identity of the finalist to be withheld until other interviewees are notified and directed the Chairman to contact the finalist immediately. Mr. Williamson recused himself from voting. Mr. Hunter with the Attorney General's office gave the Board permission to proceed as planned. Mr. Lavender made a motion to accept the Search Committee's recommendation and direct the Chairman to discuss the offer to the final candidate. Ms. Clark seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

The Chairman called for a motion to accept the Bonus Policy distributed to the Board in executive session. Mr. Lavender made the motion to approve this policy as distributed. Mr. McShane seconded and the motion unanimously passed.

VI. BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION

The Chairman opened the floor for Board member's comments. Mr. Spencer asked when the Board would hold an orientation session for new Board members. The Chairman stated once the Director started, this would be an item on the action list.

VII. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman stated that the time and place of the next Board meeting is to-be-determined and there is a chance of having a special purpose meeting prior to the end of the fiscal year. The Chairman stated the next regular Board meeting should be sometime in September.

VIII. ADJOURN

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lavender made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Clark seconded and the motion unanimously passed.